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COUNTY OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

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# REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1928.



REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT  
FOR THE YEAR 1928.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee of the Isle of Wight  
County Council.*

Gentlemen,  
1928 was a healthy year on the whole. The general death rate was a little lower than in the preceding year although the infant mortality rate was slightly higher. The tuberculosis death rate was the lowest on record. There was a slight rise in the birth rate.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
J. FAIRLEY.

County Hall,  
Newport, I.W.,  
May, 1929.

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Throughout this Report figures in brackets refer to the previous year.

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There are no conditions of occupation or environment on the Isle of Wight which have a prejudicial effect on health. Agriculture is the principal occupation and catering for visitors gives employment to many, and in Cowes there is yacht building and equipping and ship building.

## NUMBER OF INSURED PERSONS.

The numbers of insured persons in the Isle of Wight County Insurance Committee's Register in 1928 averaged 28,993 against 28,530 in 1927 and 27,858 in 1926.

## POOR LAW RELIEF.

Mr. Harrison, Clerk to the Guardians, has kindly supplied the following figures shewing the number of persons in receipt of poor relief in the Isle of Wight in December in each of the following years :—

Year.	Indoor.		Outdoor.		Total.
1921	...	384	...	1808	2192
1922	...	376	...	1557	1933
1923	...	372	...	1423	1795
1924	...	366	...	1118	1484
1925	...	356	...	1344	1700
1926	...	394	...	990	1384
1927	...	371	...	801	1172
1928	...	341	...	672	1013

TABLE I.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Sanitary Authority.	Medical Officer of Health.	Area in Acres (1921 Census)	Population at 1921 Census.	Registrar General's Estimate of Population for 1928.	Structurally Separate Dwellings occupied at 1921 Census.	Number of Families or Sep- arate Occupiers 1921 Census.	Assessable Value. (Jan., 1929.)	( <sup>2</sup> ) Produce of rd. in the £ on Assessable Value. (March, 1929.)
I.W. Rural Dist. *	Dr. W. S. Wallace <sup>1</sup>	86925	30910	{ 29920† 29370§	6785	6878	188420	709
Cowes U.D.*	Dr. W. S. Wallace	586	9995	10040	2390	2571	61326	230
East Cowes U.D.	Dr. W. S. Wallace	604	4642	4453	1143	1168	26348	93
Newport M.B.	Dr. W. S. Wallace	504	11031	11210	2653	2762	66333	258
Ryde M.B.	Dr. L. Firman-Edwards	820	11294	10610	2735	2901	82349	313
St. Helens U.D....	Dr. Hayward Carpenter <sup>1</sup>	1941	5706	5149	1269	1371	36550	137
Sandown U.D. ...	Dr. Hayward Carpenter	1223	7661	5601	1290	1290	52060	204
Shanklin U.D. ...	Dr. J. Cowper	798	7368	4337	1006	1085	52453	201
Ventnor U.D. ...	Dr. R. T. Cooke	745	6059	5030	1238	1282	45426	168
Whole County ...	...	94146	94666	{ 86350† 85800§	20509	21308	611265	2313

\* Since the publication of the 1921 Census figures a portion of the Rural District (approximately 675 acres with a population of 893) has been transferred to the Urban District of Cowes.

† Estimated population for the purpose of calculating the birth rate.

§ " " " " " death rate.

1 Dr. W. S. Wallace and Dr. H. Carpenter are also Assistant County Medical Officers.

2 Calculated under the Rating and Valuation Act, 1928.







## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

In the survey report for 1925 the health services of the County were fully described, and any changes which have taken place since that date have been noted in the more recent annual reports. No modifications were made during 1928.

## REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

The Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, which provides for the registration of Nursing Homes including Maternity Homes, came into operation on July 1st, 1928. Any person who before the commencement of this Act was registered under Part II of the Midwives and Maternity Homes Act, 1926, in respect of a Maternity Home, was deemed to be registered under the new Act.

Since this Act came into force, i.e., during the second half of 1928, seven applications for registration have been made and these were all registered with the exception of one, where an Order was made refusing registration because the premises were considered unsuitable. No appeal was made against this order. On December 31st, 1928, there were 18 Nursing Homes registered representing 88 beds; and six Institutions had been granted exemption from registration.

## BLIND PERSONS' ACT, 1920.

There were 114 registered blind persons in the Island at the end of 1928, of whom one was under school age and three were between five and 16 years of age (these are sent to special schools for the blind by the Education Committee). Twenty-six were between 16 and 50 years and 84 over 50. The Isle of Wight Society for the benefit of the indigent blind works in conjunction with the County Council's Scheme and undertakes the supervision of these blind persons. A home visitor is employed who teaches Braille and pastime occupations to the unemployable blind, and the Society grants pensions and other help to those in need. At the end of the year 54 persons were receiving pensions.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION IN HEALTH.

A good deal of attention continues to be given to health matters in the daily press, and it may be due to this that the public generally is taking a greater interest than they did a few years ago in matters affecting health. More time is devoted to the teaching of hygiene in schools; nearly nine thousand tuberculosis and infant health visits are paid during the year by the nurses. The infant welfare centres which are attended regularly by some 300 mothers help to spread useful knowledge; and many of the Women's Institutes here show a keen interest when subjects connected with health are under discussion. Eleven lectures were given by the staff in various Institutes during the year.

The increased knowledge resulting from these and other activities can hardly fail to have a beneficial effect on the health of the individual and of the public generally, and this department endeavours to meet requests for lectures on any subjects affecting the public health.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 136 samples were examined during the year by the Public Analyst, all these being samples of milk. In previous years samples of other food stuffs besides milk have been analysed, although, for reasons explained in the reports, the great majority of samples have been of milk. Twelve of the 136 samples were adulterated, or if allowance is made for the subsequent samples analysed, there were nine samples certified as not genuine out of a total of 123 first samples, i.e., 7.3 per cent.; in the previous year there were eight adulterated of 108 first samples analysed, i.e., 7.4 per cent. Of the 12 samples which were under the minimum standard laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, two were informal samples, and proceedings were taken in the other ten cases. Three of them were dismissed, two were cautioned and dismissed, and in five cases fines were inflicted which varied in amount between £1 and £2 and 14s. costs. (See Table V).

A good deal of attention has been given in the public press to the necessity for cleanliness in the production and distribution of milk and every one now recognises its importance. It is satisfactory therefore to be able to record a substantial reduction in the number of dirty samples. Twelve of the 136 samples contained a visible quantity of dirty debris in the 5-6oz. sample. Nine of these occurred in the first quarter of the year so that in the last nine months of the year there were only three dirty samples. In 1927 dirty debris was visible in 22 of the 126 samples examined.

TABLE V.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES FROM EACH AREA SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR ANALYSIS DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

Parish.	New Milk.	Remarks.
Ashey	3	
Bembridge ...	4 (1d)	
Binstead ...	3 (1a)	Fined £1 and 14s. 6d. costs
Brading ...	4 (1d)	
Brighstone ...	1	
Carisbrooke ...	3	
Chale ...	2	
East Cowes ...	6 (2d)	
Cowes ...	10 (1d) (1a)	Fined £1 and 14s. costs
Freshwater ...	6	
Godshill ...	1	
Newport ...	16 (3d) (4a)	One case fined 10s. and 14s. costs. Two cases dismissed, other informal sample. Two informal samples taken included in total of 16
Niton	2 (1d)	
Ryde ...	28 (1d) (1a)	Fined £2 and 14s. costs
St. Helens ...	6	
Sandown ...	6 (2a)	Cautioned and dismissed. Both cases same producer. One informal sample
Shalfleet ...	1	
Shanklin ...	8	
Shorwell ...	1	
South Arreton	2	
Thorley ...	1	
Totland ...	2	
Ventnor ...	7 (1a)	Fined £1 including costs
Whitwell ...	3 (1a)	Dismissed
Whippingham ...	5 (1d)	
Wroxall ...	3 (1a)	Cautioned and dismissed
Yarmouth ...	2 (1d)	
	136 (12d) (12a)	

(a) Adulterated. (d) Dirty.

## MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS, 1912 AND 1917.

The following particulars refer to the Administration of the Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912 and 1917, during the year 1928 :—

## 1.—Milk : and cream not sold as preserved cream :—

		Number of samples examined for the presence of preservatives—		Number in which preservatives was reported to be present—	
Milk	...	...	136	...	0
Cream	...	...	0	...	0

## 2.—Cream sold as preserved cream :—None examined.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 301 animals were examined and reported upon by the Veterinary Inspectors. These included 295 cows in milk and six other cows or heifers. In 12 cases in which examination was called for the presence of tuberculosis was not confirmed by the Veterinary Surgeon. Eighty-three animals were found to be suffering from tuberculosis, of which eight were classed as tuberculosis of the udder, 58 were tuberculous emaciation, and 17 other forms of tuberculous disease.

These animals were all suffering from tuberculosis in an advanced stage. As early cases are not being dealt with it is very doubtful whether the Order is doing any good.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE VI.—NOTIFICATIONS MADE TO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH DURING 1928.

	Isle of Wight Rural.	Cowes.	East Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	St. Helens.	Sandown	Shanklin	Ventnor.	Totals.
Scarlet Fever ...	44	12	2	14	7	7	23	6	39	154 (188)
Diphtheria ...	4	3	1	—	2	2	—	3	—	15 (37)
Enteric Fever ...	—	2	1	—	1	3	—	2	—	9 (7)
Pneumonia ...	12	20	5	9	1	1	—	—	2	50 (84)
Puerperal Fever ...	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	7 (1)
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	7 (11)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (4)
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 (1)
Encephalitis Lethargica...	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	4 (4)
Erysipelas... ..	9	—	3	1	3	—	3	1	—	20 (18)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	4 (9)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	13	3	8	20	7	5	2	17	96 (89)
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	—	3	2	4	2	—	—	—	15 (39)
Totals ... ..	102	54	19	37	42	23	32	14	59	382 (492)



There was less scarlet fever, diphtheria, pneumonia, and non-pulmonary tuberculosis than in the previous year and the total number of persons notified as suffering from infectious diseases fell to 382 from 492.

The scarlet fever notifications numbered 154. The average for the Island over a period of 30 years is 159.5. Ventnor had a rather higher proportion than usual with 39 cases. The type of fever has continued mild on the whole. There were no deaths from this cause.

Fifteen notifications of diphtheria is the smallest number of any year of which we have record. The Island has been fortunate for the past seven years in having much less diphtheria, the average number of notifications for the past 30 years being 111. The year under review and 1923 are the only years of which we have record when no death was caused by diphtheria.

There were nine notifications of enteric, of which two were typhoid fever, six paratyphoid B, and in one (the Ryde case) the particular fever is not specified. One case of typhoid ended fatally.

The notifications of pneumonia numbered 50 and the deaths from pneumonia 38, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 84 and 48. It should not be concluded from these figures that the mortality rate during the year was 76 per cent. because it is only certain forms of pneumonia that are notifiable, viz., acute primary pneumonia and acute influenzal pneumonia, whereas the deaths refer to all fatal cases of pneumonia of whatever type. Pneumonia notifications and deaths vary with the prevalence of influenza which was less common in 1928 than in the previous year, the influenzal deaths numbering 30 in 1928 as against 75.

The notifications of puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia must be considered together because no clear distinction can be drawn between these two conditions (the former is a disease whereas the latter is only a symptom) so a patient might be notified as suffering from one or other of them. There were 14 notifications from the two conditions in 1928 as against 12 the previous year and there were the same number of deaths from puerperal sepsis in each of these years, viz. 2.

There were four notifications of encephalitis lethargica (sleepy sickness) and four deaths; there was one death from cerebro spinal fever (spotted fever), but no cases of this disease were notified.

The tuberculosis notifications are dealt with in the next section of this report.

Information regarding the prevalence of the infectious diseases which are not notifiable is obtained from weekly reports sent in by the school teachers and these show that during the year measles was epidemic in half the schools. There were 13 deaths from measles. In the first half of the year 270 school children were reported as suffering from whooping cough but the seven deaths from this cause were all of children under school age.

There were four cases of ophthalmia neonatorum notified which is about our average (nine in 1927), and in none of these was there permanent damage to the vision.

The results of treatment in the cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were as follows:—

Year	Cases			Vision un-impaired	Vision impaired	Total blindness.	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At home	In hospital				
1928	4	4	0	4	0	0	0

*Vaccination.*—The Clerk to the Guardians has kindly supplied the figures in Table VII shewing the vaccination returns in recent years. No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention Regulations, 1917).

TABLE VII.

Year.	1 Births.	2 Vaccinated.	3 Insusceptible.	4 Dead.	5 Conscientious Objection.	6 Postponed.	7 Removed.	8 Unaccounted.	Percentage not Vaccinated, i.e. Columns 5, 6, 7, and 8.
1924	1279	510	1	39	611	17	56	45	57.0
1925	1247	511	5	67	588	6	52	18	53.2
1926	1198	442	1	51	620	12	51	20	58.7
1927	1145	456	2	35	560	11	59	22	56.9
1928	1123	432	1	34	557	9	52	38	58.4

## TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE VIII.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES AND THE DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
1— ... ..	1	—	2	3	1	—	1	1
5— ... ..	1	4	3	3	}	2	—	—
10 ... ..	2	3	1	—				
15 ... ..	3	4	1	1				
20 ... ..	8	9	—	—	}	4	7	—
25 ... ..	9	22	—	—				
35 ... ..	12	8	—	—				
45 ... ..	11	3	—	1	}	8	2	1
55 ... ..	6	4	—	2				
65 and upwards	1	2	1	—				
	54	60	8	10	23	25	2	3

The new cases shown in table VIII include all the primary notifications and also any other new cases coming to the notice of the medical officer during the year. These last number 21; in six of them the death returns gave the first information and 15 were transferred from other areas. The primary notifications numbered 111 and although five of these were mentioned in last year's report as being known to this department, they had not been notified and they are therefore included in the table. These "new" cases as shown in the Table number 132 (146 in 1927). 114 of them suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis (105) and 18 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (41).

There were fewer deaths due to tuberculosis than in any previous year, viz. 53, and of these, 48 were due to pulmonary disease and five to non-pulmonary. The fall in the number of tuberculous deaths since the beginning of this century is very striking as can be seen from the following table :—

Yearly average number of tuberculous deaths for the quinquennium.	Total.	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.
1901-5 ... ..	138	114	24
1906-10 ... ..	131	100	31
1911-15 ... ..	86	73	13
1916-20 ... ..	85	73	12
1921-25 ... ..	89	75	14
For the year 1926 ... ..	80	67	13
„ 1927 ... ..	65	47	18
„ 1928 ... ..	53	48	5

In Newport, Ryde, St. Helens, and Sandown all the deaths due to tuberculosis were of notified persons; in Cowes, two; East Cowes, one; in the Rural District, two; in Shanklin, one; and in Ventnor, one person died from tuberculosis who was not previously notified.

No action was taken by any of the Sanitary Authorities under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, as there are no tuberculous persons employed in the milk trade so far as is known.

No patients were compulsorily removed to hospital.

TABLE IX IS A SUMMARY OF THE CHANGES IN THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER DURING THE YEAR.

Number of Patients	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
On Register at end of 1927 ... ..	148	100	37	32	185	132
Added during 1928 (new cases) ... ..	47	49	7	8	54	57
Cases removed from other areas ... ..	5	8	1	1	6	9
Old cases re-admitted ... ..	3	3	—	—	3	3
Total ... ..	203	160	45	41	248	201
Removed to other areas during 1928 ... ..	20	12	—	4	20	16
Removed from the Register as being 'Cured' or having no active tuberculosis ... ..	13	11	3	2	16	13
Died during 1928 ... ..	19	26	3	4	22	30
Number on Register at the end of 1928 ... ..	151	111	39	31	190	142

This table is a summary of the changes in the Tuberculosis Registers kept by the District Medical Officers of Health, and shows that at the end of the year there were 332 notified tuberculous persons in the Island as compared with 317 at the beginning of the year. Thirty-six notified patients removed to other areas and 29 persons were removed from the registers as not now suffering from active tuberculosis. Every effort is made to keep the registers up to date and it is inevitable that if constant revision of the registers is thoroughly carried out a name will be removed occasionally which must later on be replaced because of the presence of active tuberculosis. Six such cases reappeared on our registers during the year. The total number of cases on the tuberculosis registers on December 31st for each new case recorded during the year was 2.5 which is about the lowest for any area in the country. (The average for all England in 1927 was 4.7.) This indicates that the revision of the registers here is very thoroughly carried out.

Health visiting is carried out in Cowes and East Cowes by a whole-time County Council Nurse, and in all other areas by the District Nurses. During the financial year ending 31st March, 1929, 1,180 visits were paid, of which 975 were by the district nurses; a few of these last were "nursing" visits, but the great majority were health visits. As the Council pays at the rate of 1s. for each of these visits the expenditure under this heading was £48 15s., which compares with £40 11s. for the previous year and £39 17s. in 1926.

The Council's tuberculosis scheme was described fully in the survey report for 1925, and there has been no alteration in it since then. Patients suffering or suspected to be suffering from tuberculosis are examined at the dispensary behind the County Hall, Newport—men on Tuesday mornings and women and children on Saturday mornings from 9 o'clock. No appointments are necessary. When patients cannot attend there, they may be given a special appointment or are visited at home. The main function of the dispensary is diagnosis and, later, supervision. Patients requiring treatment are referred to their own doctors as very little treatment is undertaken at the dispensary.

At the end of the year there were 250 names on the dispensary books (252). Nine of these were under observation for the purpose of diagnosis and of the remaining 241, 183 were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 58 from other forms of tuberculosis. Forty-two were children under 15 years of age and 199 were adults of whom 138 were insured persons.



Some details of dispensary work are shown in the following table.

TABLE X SHOWS THE DISPENSARY WORK COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	New Persons examined	Dispensary Attendances	Home Visits	Bacteriological Examinations		
				Sputum		Other Specimens.
				For Tuberculosis Officer	For Medical Practitioners	
1924 ... ..	155	242	292	143	60	14
1925 ... ..	181	322	244	230	120	23
1926 ... ..	138	379	195	135	89	45
1927 ... ..	191	366	321	128	106	330
1928 ... ..	244	360	312	137	132	332

The number of persons examined for the first time during 1928 was 244. This compares with the previous year's total of 191 and is the largest number presenting themselves in any year up to date. Of the 244, 14 were transferred from other areas, 185 were referred for diagnosis or treatment, and 45 were examined as contacts. Thirty-nine of these last were children and in none of them was a diagnosis of tuberculosis established. Of the six adults examined as contacts only one was found to be suffering from tuberculosis. When a patient suffering from tuberculosis is referred to the health visitor, she makes enquiries regarding the state of health of all the other occupants of the house, and if in any instance this is not satisfactory that person is referred to his or her own doctor for examination or is examined by the tuberculosis officer. Repeated examinations are made at intervals in all doubtful cases with the object of discovering as early as possible any signs of the disease, but these repeated examinations are not included in the dispensary figures if they are all frankly negative, e.g., during the school inspections all children known to be "contacts" are examined each year, but only the first of these examinations is included in the tuberculosis figures; the others are recorded in the school reports as special examinations.

Of the 185 persons referred for diagnosis or treatment, 114 were adults and 71 were children. Fifty-seven of the adults were tuberculous (24 men and 33 women) and of the children 16 were tuberculous (10 boys and six girls). All except 13 were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, six adults (three men and three women) and seven children (five boys and two girls.)

Greater use is being made of the facilities for the examination of specimens at the bacteriological laboratory, the total number of specimens examined being 601 compared with 564 in the previous year. Of the 269 sputum specimens tubercle bacilli were found in 76, viz., in 52 of the 137 examined for the tuberculosis officers and in 24 of the 132 specimens examined for medical practitioners. Further details of the 601 examinations are as follows :—

Sputum for tubercle bacilli ... ..	269
Other fluids for tubercle bacilli ... ..	6
Swabs for diphtheria bacilli ... ..	266
Bloods for Widal reaction ... ..	15
Smears for gonococci ... ..	21
Hairs for ringworm ... ..	8
Other examinations ... ..	16
Total ... ..	601

Two and at times three of the six sleeping shelters have been in use at Longford Sanatorium and the others have been loaned to patients. When these were first provided the intention was to add more as and when they were required, but up till the end of the year no more were found necessary.

Extra nourishment in the form of milk was given to 16 patients during the financial year ending 31st March, 1929. At the beginning of the year three patients were receiving grants, 13 were added during the year and at the end of the year three were still in receipt of milk. The cost of this item was £21 17s. (£30 2s. 6d. in the previous year).

TABLE XI.—TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED AT VARIOUS SANATORIA AND HOSPITALS DURING 1928.

Sanatorium or Hospital.	Resident at beginning of year.	Admitted during year.	Discharged during year (inc. Deaths).	Remaining end of year.	Total for the year.
Longford Sanatorium ... ..	17	87	85	19	104
Royal National Hospital, Ventnor ... ..	—	2	1	1	2
Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton ... ..	2	2	3	1	4
Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate ... ..	4	1	5	—	5
Totals ... ..	23	92	94	21	115

*Residential Treatment.*—There were 115 patients treated in Institutions during 1928 as against 120 the previous year, and of this total 104 were treated at Longford Sanatorium and 11 at other hospitals, nine of these last being non-pulmonary cases. Of the five patients treated at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate, three were discharged with the disease arrested (one tuberculosis of the hip and two of the knee), one patient (tuberculosis of the spine) was transferred to the care of another authority on account of her parents' removal from the Island, and one with multiple tuberculosis was not improved. The Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital at Alton

treated four patients, of whom one (tuberculosis of the spine) was still in residence at the end of the year. Two patients with tuberculosis of the hip were discharged with the disease arrested and one observation case was discharged as non-tuberculous. The average duration of hospital treatment in the six patients who completed treatment during the year (excluding the one who was not tubercular) was 357 days. This prolonged treatment is necessary in non-pulmonary forms of tuberculosis and it is justified by the results. All these patients have done well with the one exception of the case of multiple tuberculosis who first came under observation at a late stage.

The numbers treated at Longford during 1928 were as follows :—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
In residence on December 31st, 1927 ...	4	10	3	17
Admitted during the year ... ..	21	35	31	87
Discharged during the year ... ..	18	31	29	78
Died during the year ... ..	2	5	—	7
In residence on December 31st, 1928 ...	5	9	5	19

The average duration of stay of the 78 patients discharged was 92.4 days. (91.6 in 1927, 84.2 in 1926), and 86.5 in 1925). Of these 78 patients 28 were admitted for purposes of observation, six adults and 22 children. Five of the former (one man and four women) were discharged as not tuberculous, and one woman was found to be suffering from tuberculosis. Of the children admitted on suspicion not one was diagnosed as definitely suffering from tuberculous disease; 21 were not tuberculous and one was doubtful.

Patients are admitted to Longford in all stages of the disease and the improvement resulting from their stay is very obvious in the great majority. In some however, the stage of the disease is too far advanced to allow a reasonable chance of recovery. The immediate results of treatment in the 51 patients discharged during the year were as follows :—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Disease quiescent ... ..	2	6	3	11
Improved ... ..	13	16	2	31
No material improvement ... ..	2	5	2	9

The Matron at Longford Sanatorium acknowledges gifts from Miss Auld, Miss Baker, Mrs. Balcombe, Miss Beale, Mrs. Blakely, Dr. Carpenter, Miss Clarke, Dr. Fairley, Mr. Fleming, Mrs. Gentle, Sir Arthur Gough-Calthorpe, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. James, Councillor Midlane, Mr. O'Dell, Miss Porter, Red Cross Library, London, Dr. R. Robertson, Mr. Salter, Mr. Shekyls, Mr. Silsbury, Miss Warren, Mr. Wheeler, and Mrs. Woodyear.

#### VENEREAL DISEASES.

The number of persons dealt with at the treatment centres for the first time was 98 (96 in 1927) and of these 37 were found to be suffering from venereal disease (35). Nineteen of these suffered from gonorrhœa, which is an increase from 12 of the previous year. The arrangements at the treatment centres in Ryde and Newport are the same as described in previous annual reports. Patients are seen without appointment at the County Hospital at Ryde on Friday afternoons, women at 3 o'clock and men at 4 o'clock, or they can attend the branch centre at the County Hall, Newport. These arrangements are adequate and although the number of cases of gonorrhœa has increased slightly during the year there is good reason for concluding that there is little venereal disease in this area.



TABLE XII.—RELATING TO ALL PERSONS WHO WERE TREATED AT THE TREATMENT CENTRE AT RYDE AND THE BRANCH TREATMENT CENTRE AT NEWPORT DURING THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

	Syphilis.		Soft Chancre.		Gonorrhœa.		Conditions other than Venereal.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1. No. of persons who, on the 1st Jan., 1928, were under treatment or observation for ... .. Old patients re-admitted during year	25	18	—	—	1	3	—	—	26	21
2. No. dealt with during the year in the out-patient Clinic <i>for the first time</i> and found to be suffering from—	14	4	—	—	13	6	36	25	63	35
Total—Items 1 and 2 ...	39	22	—	—	14	9	36	25	89	56
No. of these Transfers from other areas	3	2	—	—	4	1	—	—	7	3
3. No. of persons who ceased to attend the out-patient Clinic—										
(a) before completing the first course of treatment for ...	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	1
(b) after one or more courses but before completion of treatment for ... ..	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1
(c) after completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure of ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2
4. No. of persons transferred to other Treatment Centres after treatment for ... ..	3	3	—	—	4	1	—	—	7	4
5. No. of persons discharged from the out-patient Clinic after completion of treatment and observation for...	11	11	—	—	5	1	—	—	16	12
6. No. of persons who, on the 1st Jan., 1929, were under treatment or observation for ... ..	14	6	—	—	3	5	—	—	17	11
Total—Items 3, 4, 5, & 6 ...	39	22	—	—	14	9	—	—	89	56
7. Total attendances of all persons at the out-patient Clinic who were suffering from ... ..	271	136	—	—	261	92	63	38	595	266
8. Aggregate No. of "In-patient days" of treatment given to persons who were suffering from ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	42	—	—	—	42

9. Examinations of Pathological material—	For detection of			For Wasserman Reaction.
	Spirochetes.	Gonococci.	Other Organisms.	
(a) Specimens which were examined at, and by the Medical Officer of, the Treatment Centre	—	21	—	—
(b) Specimens from persons attending at the Treatment Centre which were sent for examination to an approved laboratory ...	—	—	—	100

A. No. of persons from each area dealt with during the year at or in connection with the out-patient Clinic <i>for the first time</i> and found to be suffering from—						
	Isle of Wight	Portsmouth	Brighton	London	Leeds	Total
Syphilis ... ..	14	1	2	—	1	18
Soft Chancre ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa ... ..	16	—	—	3	—	19
Conditions other than venereal ... ..	61	—	—	—	—	61
	91	1	2	3	1	98
B. Total No. of attendances at the out-patient Clinic of all patients residing in each area	807	7	2	41	4	861
C. Aggregate No. of "In-patient days" of all patients residing in each area ... ..	42	—	—	—	—	42
D. No. of doses of Salvarsan substitutes given	98	4	—	—	—	102
,,     ,,     Bismuth preparations     ,,	235	1	—	—	4	240

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Council's Maternity and Child Welfare scheme can be considered fairly complete. There are trained midwives in every district and they attend the greater proportion of the births in the Island (see the following section of this report). This proportion varies considerably being between 30 and 90 per cent. in the different

districts ; it is greater in the rural areas where there is no resident doctor and in districts where the midwifery service has been established for a longer period.

Beds are available in Institutions for special patients—at the Parkhurst Infirmary for complicated midwifery cases and at the Fairlee Isolation Hospital for puerperal fever cases. During the financial year eight patients were admitted to these beds, three to Fairlee, of which one proved fatal, and five to Parkhurst, all of whom made a good recovery ; two of these suffered from eclampsia, one from central placenta prævia, one from malposition, and one from fibroid growths in the uterus.

*Midwives.*—Notification of intention to practise was received from 52 midwives, of whom 35 practised here throughout the year and five for part of the year ; eight were engaged temporarily on the Island and four did not practise. Of the 35 midwives in regular practice 25 were employed by 19 various district nursing associations, one was in an institution and nine were in independent practice. These midwives are all qualified by examination and their inspection is carried out by the County Nursing Superintendent, and when special circumstances arise, by the County Medical Officer. The number of inspections made during 1928 by the County Superintendent was 128, of which 100 were routine visits and 28 were special visits of enquiry.

In 1928 there were 1,168 births registered in the Island including 133 in Ryde, which is the only local authority having a maternity and child welfare scheme apart from the County Council. A midwife was present at 906 of these births or 77.6 per cent. ; a doctor also was present at 170, so the number of births which the midwives attended alone was 736, or 63.0 per cent. of the total. Medical help was summoned in 134 instances.

In addition to the notices of summoning medical help the midwives notified nine still births (0.8 per cent. of their cases, two death of child, 10 artificial feeding, 14 performing last offices, 12 liability to be a source of infection, four puerperal fever, four puerperal pyrexia, three scarlet fever, and one pemphigus).

An analysis of the 134 cases in which medical help was summoned shews that 27 were for the child and 107 for the mother. Of these last 27 were for complications arising during pregnancy (nine for miscarriage or threatened miscarriage and 18 for other causes during pregnancy) ; 66 were for causes arising during labour (14 of these being for obstructed or delayed labour, five for hæmorrhage, 23 for ruptured perineum, and 24 for other causes during labour) ; and 14 were for causes arising after labour.

One of the main objects of supervision of the expectant mother is to lessen the number of emergencies which arise during labour by the treatment during pregnancy of any abnormal condition ; and it is satisfactory therefore to note that in only 14 cases was medical help summoned for obstructed or delayed labour as compared with 26 in 1927, 34 in 1926, and 36 in 1925.

In all cases in which medical help is sought by a midwife the Council is liable for the payment of the doctor's fee, but it is required to recover the fee from the patient except in necessitous cases. During the financial year ending 31st March, 1929, the Council paid the doctor's fee in 55 such cases, amounting to £78 5s. 6d. Of these 55 cases full liability was undertaken in 36 ; in 18 the patient was required to repay the fee, and in one, part of the fee was repaid. The amount received during the year was £22 7s. 6d., of which £6 14s. 6d. was in respect of cases considered the previous year. The net expenditure of the Council under this heading has thus been £55 18s.

Table XIII shews the number of births attended by midwives compared with previous years and the proportion in which medical help was summoned and was paid for by the Council.

Year	Total Births	Number of Births		No. summoning medical help.	No. in which medical fee was paid by Council.	Amount paid by Council less repayments by patients.
		Attended by midwives (Dr. also engaged in some)	Attended by midwives alone (No Dr. engaged)			
1923 ... ..	1278	925	744	114	30	£35 13 0
1924 ... ..	1243	935	746	123	28	£22 0 6
1925 ... ..	1200	865	713	168	53	£74 16 2
1926 ... ..	1141	830	667	153	51	£57 9 0
1927 ... ..	1124	891	712	160	48	£40 13 6
1928 ... ..	1168	906	736	134	55	£55 18 0

\* The figures are those for the financial year ending 31st March.

The supervision of expectant mothers is part of the midwives' duties and the extent to which this work is carried out by these midwives who are also health visitors is shewn in the first two columns of Table XIV. Excluding the visits made in Cowes and East Cowes by the County Council nurse because these visits would be to doctors' cases, the total visits number 3,361, of which 680 were first visits. In addition, the midwives who are not health visitors paid 1,573 visits, of which 309 were first visits. There were therefore 4,934 ante-natal visits paid to 989 expectant mothers, i.e., to all the midwives' cases. On the average five visits were paid in each case.

*Infant Welfare.*—Excluding the 133 births in Ryde there were 1,035 births registered in the area administered for maternity and child welfare purposes by the County Council. 983 of these were notified to the County Medical Officer through the District Medical Officers of Health, i.e., 94.9 per cent. The number of infant deaths in this area was 55, or at the rate of 53 per 1,000 births. If the figures for Ryde are included the infant mortality rate for the Island is 53.5 which compares with 45.4 in 1927.

Health visits are made to all the infants on the Island, the numbers of visits paid in each district being shewn in Table XIV. The arrangements for carrying out this work and the system on which the visits are made are the same as described in the reports for the years 1925 and 1926. The health visitors report on any infants requiring special treatment such as orthopædic treatment for deformities, but during the year no case of this kind required to be referred to the Committee.

The Infant Welfare Centres continue to do excellent work, over 300 children attending them on the average (see Table XV). A few expectant mothers also report at these centres but they do not attend as a rule ; the nurses visit them at home. A new centre was opened at Wroxall during the year, so there are now 15 of these centres on the Island. The centres are conducted by committees of ladies who are interested in this work and whose services are entirely voluntary. From the public health point of view it is work of considerable importance and it has been one of the factors in the great saving of infants lives that has taken place in recent years.



The Council makes milk grants to necessitous cases attending the Infant Welfare Centres. During the financial year ending 31st March, 1929, £55 6s. 7d. was expended for 426 weeks' supply of milk to 54 cases. The corresponding figures for 1927 were £58 18s. 2d. for 447 weeks' supply to 54 cases and for 1926, £53 18s. 2d. for 439 weeks' supply of milk to 60 cases.

TABLE XIV.—SHOWING THE WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS IN 1928.

						To Expectant Mothers.		To Infants under 1.		Visits to Children aged 1-5.
						First Visits.	Total Visits.	First Visits.	Total Visits.	
Arreton	Nurse	...	...	...	...	12	67	15	125	122
Bembridge	"	...	...	...	...	24	80	27	291	247
Brading	"	...	...	...	...	19	196	39	134	131
Brighstone	"	...	...	...	...	5	38	5	64	68
Calbourne	"	...	...	...	...	11	44	12	86	47
Carisbrooke	"	...	...	...	...	44	183	77	266	181
Chale	"	...	...	...	...	9	117	18	108	85
Cowes	{ (Nurse Blades)	...	...	...	...	52	127	215	1044	1497
East Cowes		...	...	...	...					
Freshwater	Nurse	...	...	...	...	25	75	43	160	260
Godshill	"	...	...	...	...	31	159	43	155	84
Newport	"	...	...	...	...	168	447	229	880	983
Niton	"	...	...	...	...	17	46	13	58	83
Northwood	"	...	...	...	...	15	95	38	213	294
Ryde District	"	...	...	...	...	147	862	198	2255	1989
St. Helens	"	...	...	...	...	18	91	19	94	152
Sandown	"	...	...	...	...	48	176	88	530	410
Seaview	"	...	...	...	...	6	63	7	168	137
Shanklin (Nurse Jones)	"	...	...	...	...	2	6	32	88	23
Ventnor	Nurse	...	...	...	...	55	457	72	605	718
Wootton	"	...	...	...	...	12	109	22	210	205
Yarmouth	"	...	...	...	...	12	50	14	113	70
Total	...	...	...	...	...	732	3488	1226	7647	7786

TABLE XV.—SHOWING THE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR OF THE VARIOUS INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

District.	Honorary Secretary.	Nurse in Charge.	Address of Centre.	Days and Times of Meetings.	M.O. and Time of Attendance.	Approximate Average Attendance Children.
Bembridge	Lady Thornycroft	Bennett, A.	Church Room	2nd Wednesdays, 3 p.m.	County M.O., Monthly	11
Brading	Miss Robinson	Jack, H.	Ditto	2nd and 4th Tuesdays	County M.O., Monthly (4th Tuesday)	11
Carisbrooke	Mrs. Gentle	Preston, H.	Church Hall	1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 3 p.m.	County M.O., Monthly	20
East Cowes	Mrs. Jones	Blades, E.	Ditto	1st and 3rd Tuesdays	County M.O., Monthly	11
West Cowes	Mrs. Churchman	Blades, E.	Adelaide Grove St. Mary's Hall, Mary Street	Wednesdays, 3 p.m.	County M.O., Fortnightly (1st and 3rd Wed.)	28
Freshwater	Mrs. McMaster	Phillips, E. Dallard, M.	Parish Room	Alternate Thursdays, 2.30 p.m.	Dr. Mansfield Fortnightly	34
Newport	Mrs. Tilley	Cheverton, D.	Church Hall	Thursdays 2.30 p.m.	County M.O. Fortnightly	37
Parkhurst Barracks	Mrs. Smith	Preston, H.	Barracks	2nd & 4th Thursdays	Officer in Charge, R.A.M.C.	11
Ryde	Miss Corrie	Wyatt	Melville Street	Fridays, 3 p.m.	Dr. Edwards, Weekly	37
St. Helens	Mrs. Cockburn	Taylor, A.	The Institute	2nd Thursdays, 2.30-4 p.m.	Dr. Mussen, Monthly	12
Sandown	Miss Arnell	Dedman E.	Rechabite Hall	2nd & 4th Thursdays	County M.O., Monthly (4th Thursday)	39
Seaview	Mrs. Gordon	Legge, A. V.	Wesleyan School	1st Tuesdays, 3 p.m.	Dr. Aston, Monthly	10
Shanklin	Mrs. Whitaker	Jones, G.	St. Saviour's Hall	Alternate Tuesdays, 3 p.m.	Dr. Melhuish	21
Ventnor	Miss Davies, R.R.C.	Stoodley and Meikleham	Church Hall, Alpine Road	2nd & 4th Thursdays	County M.O., Monthly (4th Thursday)	40
Wroxall	Mrs. M. Meriton-Long	Adamson	Church Hall	1st Fridays	County M.O. Monthly (1st Friday)	12

## COUNTY NURSING ASSOCIATION.

With few exceptions the district nursing associations are affiliated to the County Association which undertakes the supervision of the nursing work in the various districts and affords help in various other ways to the local associations. The number of affiliated district associations is now 19 including one maternity and infant welfare association. These employ 31 nurses. The Wroxall and Godshill district nursing association combined with the Ventnor and Bonchurch association at the beginning of April, and in order to cover this extensive district the nurses who live in Ventnor have been provided with a car. In November the Cowes district nursing association affiliated with the County Association and at the same time they engaged as district nurse a qualified midwife and undertook midwifery work. Every part of the Island has now the advantages of a midwifery service and also a district nursing service. The work done in various affiliated districts during the year ending 31st March, 1929, is summarised in Table XVI.

TABLE XVI.

Nursing Associations.	Medical Cases.	Surgical Cases.	Total.	Midwifery Cases.	Maternity Cases.	Total.
Arreton, Gatcombe, Chillerton, Blackwater, Rookley, and Merstone ...	22	4	26	12	3	15
Bembridge ...	80	12	92	8	8	16
Brading ...	55	40	95	17	6	23
Brighstone, Brook, and Mottistone ...	49	36	85	9	1	10
Calbourne, Shalfleet, Porchfield, Newtown, Ningwood, and Hamstead ...	41	15	56	6	2	8
Carisbrooke ...	111	64	175	39	8	47
Chale, Kingston, and Shorwell ...	36	48	84	7	2	9
Cowes ...	40	23	63	1	1	2
Freshwater and Totland ...	102	70	172	11	15	26
Newport ...	367	137	504	96	37	133
Niton, Whitwell, and St. Lawrence ...	21	21	42	3	10	13
Northwood and Gurnard ...	53	25	78	13	5	18
Ryde ...	673	123	796	98	39	137
St. Helens ...	42	28	70	12	3	15
Sandown ...	11	10	21	27	18	45
Seaview and Nettlestone ...	55	33	88	1	5	6
Ventnor, Bonchurch, Wroxall, and Godshill ...	153	82	235	37	27	64
Wootton Bridge and District ...	45	52	97	4	7	11
Yarmouth, Thorley, Ningwood, and Wellow ...	70	22	92	6	8	14
Totals ...	2026	845	2871	407	205	612



TABLE XVII.—HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1928.

	Rural District.	Cowes.	East Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	St. Helens.	Sandown.	Shanklin.	Ventnor.
No. of new houses erected during the year—									
Total ... ..	117	11	7	12	37	32	55	13	12
With State assistance under the Housing Acts—									
(i) By the Local Authority... ..	12	0	0	6	20	18	13	0	6
(ii) By other bodies or persons ... ..	54	0	5	5	17	4	38	3	0
<i>Inspection—</i>									
Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	1712	221	217	431	137	91	162	90	241
No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Reg.'s, 1925 ... ..	919	83	144	104	73	73	148	100	162
No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	10	0	3	0	8	2	1	0	4
No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	308	13	10	104	53	72	124	2	*
<i>Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices—</i>									
No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	340	12	10	86	37	30	84	15	28
<i>Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—</i>									
No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	5	1	3	10	3	16	0	2	54
No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—									
(a) By owners ... ..	10	0	1	8	3	10	0	2	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... ..	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	*
<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts—</i>									
No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	0	0	0	8	3	1	124	0	*
No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—									
(a) By owners ... ..	0	0	0	8	3	0	1	0	*
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
<i>Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—</i>									
No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ..	10	0	0	0	8	2	1	0	4
No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	7	0	0	0	8	2	6	0	1
No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ..	2	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	1
No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Houses demolished voluntarily ... ..	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*

\* In these cases incomplete or no information has been given in the reports to enable the particulars to be tabulated.

According to these figures 296 houses were erected in the Island in 1928 as compared with 404 in 1927, 368 in 1926, 279 in 1925 and 186 in 1924.

## METEOROLOGY.

To Mr. John Dover, M.A., of the Totland Meteorological Station, Major C. G. Brodie, of Wootton, and Mr. C. Orchard, of Sandown, I am indebted for the figures in Table XVIII.

Month.	Maximum Temperatures.			Minimum Temperatures.			Mean Temperatures.			Rainfall in Inches.			Hours of Sunshine.		
	Totland.	Wootton.	Sandown.	Totland.	Wootton.	Sandown.	Totland.	Wootton.	Sandown.	Totland.	Wootton.	Sandown.	Totland.	Wootton.	Sandown.
January ...	52.0	52.0	55.0	26.8	26.0	27.0	43.4	42.2	43.0	5.66	5.94	5.39	83.0	—	85.7
February ...	53.3	55.0	55.0	30.3	25.0	27.0	44.4	43.4	44.0	2.17	2.10	2.18	120.8	—	120.3
March ...	59.1	60.0	57.0	23.8	23.0	23.0	44.2	43.8	44.0	2.75	3.58	2.75	118.6	—	123.7
April ...	66.9	68.0	66.0	32.0	29.0	32.0	47.6	47.8	47.0	2.13	2.33	1.86	144.6	—	144.1
May ...	76.8	78.0	76.0	35.0	34.0	31.0	52.6	51.8	52.0	0.83	.88	1.37	165.5	—	186.2
June ...	68.7	72.0	69.0	43.1	41.0	36.0	56.4	56.4	57.0	2.01	2.40	2.55	213.9	—	240.7
July ...	84.0	87.0	85.0	50.0	45.0	43.0	62.4	61.6	63.0	1.69	1.73	2.52	289.6	—	314.4
August ...	70.2	74.0	75.0	46.4	45.0	45.0	61.0	59.5	66.0	2.38	2.43	2.81	182.2	—	214.8
September ...	70.2	78.0	72.0	41.1	41.0	36.0	56.9	57.0	56.0	1.33	1.04	.97	230.9	—	246.6
October ...	64.8	66.0	65.0	37.7	35.0	34.0	53.9	52.6	54.0	7.07	8.15	8.32	130.3	—	130.1
November ...	58.0	59.0	59.0	29.9	26.0	27.0	48.6	49.1	49.0	2.95	3.94	4.36	74.4	—	70.4
December ...	55.8	54.0	54.0	24.0	21.0	26.0	40.7	39.8	39.0	2.62	3.45	3.62	63.5	—	61.8
The year 1928	84.0	87.0	85.0	23.8	21.0	23.0	51.0	50.4	50.8	33.59	37.97	38.70	1817.3		1938.8

1928 was a rather warmer year than usual, the temperature being higher than usual particularly in the autumn months. The rainfall for the year was about average, January being a specially wet month, the wettest for 22 years at Totland, with 5.66 inches of rain. There was less wind than usual except in the months of January, June, October, and November; but the feature of the year was the amount of bright sunshine recorded in certain months. February had more bright sunshine than any February previously recorded by Mr. Dover, and was the brightest return in the Kingdom for the month. July and September were also wonderfully sunny months.